

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
General Certificate of Secondary Education

RELIGIOUS STUDIES A (WORLD RELIGIONS) (SHORT COURSE) 2400/1
PAPER 10 – Jewish Texts

MARK SCHEME

Specimen Paper 2003

1 Exodus 20:1-7

- (a) Describe the teachings in this passage. [8]**

There is plenty of material here for candidates to draw upon. They may comment on any of the points made in the passage as well as identifying its place at the beginning of the Ten Commandments.

- (b) Explain how following these teachings might affect the life of a Jew today. [7]**

Jews might be urged to remember their relationship with G-d and his love for them and so be more particular in keeping the mitzvot. These teachings influence every aspect of Jewish life and faith and candidates should be able to point these out.

- (c) 'Some of the Ten Commandments are more important than others.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different point of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer.

[5]

In fact they are all equally important but careful responses may consider this position and put forward other views. Candidates will probably respond that they are all of equal status but they might consider which ones can and cannot be broken in certain circumstances.

2 Genesis 2:1-3

- (a) Describe the teachings found in this passage. [8]**

The teachings centre on G-d's creation of the world and everything in it and, therefore in the relationship between G-d and the Jews – also, of course, in the establishment of the Sabbath. Candidates should be able to comment on this in some detail.

- (b) Explain the importance for Jews of this passage. [7]**

There is a lot which can be said about how both the creation in general and the institution of the Sabbath in particular has affected Jewish life and continues to do so.

- (c) 'The seventh day was the most important day of Creation.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different point of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer.

[5]

There is no straightforward answer to this and the candidate is free to come down on either side of the question or none. Although the seventh day was undoubtedly important, candidates may argue that all the days were equally important as part of G-d's creative act. Look for the strength of the argument.

- 3 (a) **Describe the main events in the book of Jonah.** [8]

There is much that can be said about Jonah: candidates are likely to comment on the principal details e.g. G-d's call to Jonah, the storm, the fish and the arrival at Nineveh.

- (b) **Explain how the story of Jonah might influence Jews in their attitudes towards other people and to G-d.** [7]

Here the question is looking for some practical application in life and faith of the teachings from Jonah. There is little that can be made of the actual story of the fish – look for greater depth of understanding.

- (c) **'Jonah was a very weak man and is not a good example for people to follow today.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different point of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer.

[5]

Candidates might find themselves forced to agree with statement whilst wanting to argue how valuable Jonah's contribution and example are. Mark according to LoR.

- 4 (a) **Describe the story of the first six days of Creation found in Genesis 1.** [8]

First 'six' days, so anything is appropriate apart from the Sabbath. Key point is that the whole of creation was a creative act of G-d. Better answers might address the concept of creation from nothing.

- (b) **Explain how this part of the Creation story might influence the beliefs and attitudes of Jews today.** [7]

Main beliefs are likely to be an awareness of G-d's power and omnipotence. Possible influence is respect for the environment and the whole of creation.

- (c) **'The story of Creation does not agree with scientific facts and so it must be wrong.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons to support your opinion and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Judaism your answer.

[5]

It can be questioned as to whether the story does disagree with science. However, the argument is likely to rest on whether, as revealed scripture, it has a higher and more reliable status.

